

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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Must disabled go to law for their rights?

"UTTERLY trivial and wholly untenable" reasons have been advanced by some Local Authorities for delaying the introduction of services which they are now duty bound to provide for the handicapped under the new Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. As a result, disabled people were being provoked into considering going to law in order to secure their new rights, and this would be "very sad" said Mr. Alfred Morris, M.P. when he spoke at The Spastics Society's annual meeting in London.

It was the M.P.'s Private Members Bill which resulted in the new Act—described as a charter for the disabled—and Mr. Morris made a plea for its provisions to be implemented now throughout the country.

The Act would help to normalise the lives of handicapped people in every part of Britain, said Mr. Morris, but it could only do so if its provisions were fully understood. "This is not the case today. Indeed, there are still many public representatives who are completely un-

aware of the provisions of the Act."

He also made an appeal for the Minister to name the date for the "crucially important" Section One of the Act to come into force. This section puts a duty on every Local Authority to find out how many handicapped people live in their areas, and to ensure that they know of the rights and benefits available to them.

At the moment there are only 600,000 names on the registers of handicapped people kept by Local Authorities, yet The Spastics Society estimates there are two million handicapped—so barely one in three was listed.

Declared Mr. Morris: "Until Section One becomes

Continued on Page 4

"It is challenging work which grips the imagination"

WHEN you are only five and you are happily making pastry in your infant class it could be a little overwhelming to suddenly find yourself talking to a Royal lady and the target of a clutch of photographers. But when the Royal visitor is as charming as the Duchess of Kent, and she sits beside you for a friendly chat, it's no wonder that little Nicola Turner was able to match the happy smile of the Duchess.

The picture above shows a typical informal incident during the Duchess of Kent's afternoon at White Lodge Centre, Chertsey, Surrey, when, as Patron of The Spastics Society, she opened the new Treatment Unit. Her great interest in the efforts of those who devote themselves to helping spastics—"It is challenging work which grips the imagination and deserves our support" she said—was obvious as she toured the Centre meeting children and staff and by her sincere interest and kindness putting even the youngest at their ease. This is shown again in the picture right, where the Duchess, with teacher Mrs. Pauline Oatway, and Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, meet Lynn Selly and Timmy Healy, and watches young artist Simon Brock-Griggs at work.

More pictures of the Duchess of Kent at White Lodge and a report of the opening on pages 6 and 7.



M.P. hits out at those "highly dangerous" three wheeler cars



MR. MORRIS is convinced—and he says motor manufacturers agree with him—that there would be little, if any, difference in cost in supplying a four-wheeled car to severely disabled drivers instead of the present three-wheeler, "which does so much to disrupt the family lives of countless disabled people."

He told the annual meeting that there would be determined Parliamentary pressure during the coming year to provide more four-wheel cars. Apart from disrupting family life, he said, the three-wheeler could also be a highly dangerous vehicle, and went on:

TRAPPED IN DITCH

"There have been a number of cases of three-wheelers, in which the disabled person has to travel alone, being blown off the roads in high winds. In one such case, the disabled driver was trapped in a ditch in his three-wheeled vehicle for twelve hours.

"Why, then, is there so much official reluctance to provide a four-wheeled vehicle? I am sure that it is not based on the cost per car. I have, in fact, seen figures that show there to be little, if any, difference in the cost per car of replacing the three-wheeler with a four-wheeled vehicle.

"Official reluctance to go for a four-wheeler seems to have much more to do with the fear that this kind of vehicle would substantially increase demand. While we have three-wheelers, many of the disabled people who are entitled to them simply do not apply because of the unsuitability of these vehicles."

INCREASE

"The offer of a four-wheeled vehicle would certainly increase the number of entitled applicants, and I believe it to be this aspect of the cost of replacing the three-wheeler which really disturbs the Government, not just this one, but previous Governments as well."

"Ministers appear to be continuing an unsatisfactory service on the grounds that it invites fewer applicants (at lower cost) than would a satisfactory service."

"It's rather like offering distasteful sweets, not because they are cheaper, but for the reason that fewer people will want them."

Also important, said Mr. Morris, was the fact that disabled people could think of taking

jobs if their mobility was improved.

"There are many highly capable disabled men and women who desire nothing more than the dignity of being able to work. They yearn to cease being supplementary pensioners and start being taxpayers."

Mr. Morris said he felt very strongly that there should be an urgent, wide-ranging, and official inquiry into the employment problems of disabled people. Unemployment among the disabled was about six times as high as among the able-bodied.

PRINCESS ANNE

LENT A HAND

DURING an official visit to Portsmouth recently, Princess Anne called in at the Connors Day Nursery for Physically Handicapped children. One of the children whom she met there was spastic Darren Wilkie, aged four.

The Princess lent a helping hand while Darren practised his walking.

UNLUCKY DAY MAY BE GOOD OMEN

CHRISTMAS cards and Christmas gifts are on sale at The Spastics Society's first London shop at 367 Harrow Road, London, W.9. The shop opened its doors on Friday, November 13th.

The shop has a wide variety of attractive Christmas cards, ranging from as little as 4d. for a card with envelope to 2s. for superb fine art designs. Gifts include children's toys and games as well as jewellery made by spastics. Later on the shop hopes to sell secondhand goods donated by the public.

Said Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society: "Although we chose unlucky Friday the 13th to open this shop, we hope that generous public support will turn this into a lucky omen."

Splashes from the Spastics Pool



It's all smiles for Mrs. Wetton, of Cannock, Staffs., who won a Ford Escort in Charm Girl Competition No. 10. Handing over the keys to Mrs. Wetton is Mr. Bill McGarry, the Wolverhampton Wanderers' Manager. The presentation took place outside the premises of the Churchbridge Motor Garage.



Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, of Lochside, Dumfries, are pictured receiving their Ford Escort from Francis Dundas, who is a prominent local businessman and car rallying enthusiast. Mr. Richardson won his prize in Charm Girl Competition No. 8. The winner, Mr. Richardson, is a keen Scottish Country Dancer, and is seen above wearing his full Highland regalia. The kilt tartan is Ancient McGregor.

Search begins for Charm Girl '71

IN view of the tremendous response to the "Spastics" Charm Girl Competitions which have been featured on the weekly bulletins over a period of 12 months, it has been decided to introduce a further series to find the "Spastics" Charm Girl of 1971.

For the millions of supporters of the "Spastics" weekly competitions it means further opportunities to win Ford Escort saloons, and other wonderful prizes.

But that's not all. For the young ladies who submit photographs there is the opportunity of winning cash prizes if they are featured on the weekly bulletin, and of participating in the Finals.

So, don't be shy, send in two photographs, head and shoulders only, to Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., Dept. JFG, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS99 7QX, and don't forget those names and addresses.

Members of the South West London and District Group are mourning the sudden death of their Chairman, Mr. Norman Cawdery, who was a founder of the Group in 1952 and had been a tireless worker ever since.

Lessons in leadership for club members

PRACTICAL guidance in the successful running of a '62 Club was the theme of a weekend Leadership Course organised by The Spastics Society's Clubs and Holidays Staff at the Family Services and Assessment Centre, London.

Club members from all over the country attended the Course and they were joined by members from the London Club. Guest speakers were Mr. Colin Toomer, a Bristol accountant, who dealt with the important subject of keeping Club accounts; and Miss Janet Evans of the Southend '62 Club who dealt with local problems which might arise. Members also discussed committee procedure and programme planning.

Before the Course ended, members gave special thanks to Elizabeth Gronert, assistant housekeeper at the Centre, who was beset by staff illness but managed magnificently, and to Mrs. Mary Hargreaves, and Margaret Hargreaves who gave up their weekend in order to help serve meals and wash up.

* * *

THINKING of next year's holidays? Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society has a four-berth caravan at Felixstowe which is let cheaply to the disabled—and to the general public—to raise funds.

BITS AND PIECES by The Collector

A MICHAELMAS Fair held by the Hertfordshire Spastics Society at Welwyn, raised £750. The money was divided between various Schools and Centres catering for spastics, including the new Day Unit at Cell Barnes Hospital, St. Albans, Sherrards Training Centre, Ingfield Manor School and the Watford Treatment Centre.

* * *

A SPONSORED swim organised by Huddersfield Rotary Club, Yorkshire, raised £450 for Huddersfield and District Spastics Society.

It is on a convenient, quiet site with all amenities, and Mrs. R. Bayley, founder and hon. secretary of the Felixstowe branch, will give you further details if you write to her at 13, Orford Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

The money will help provide holidays for local spastics.

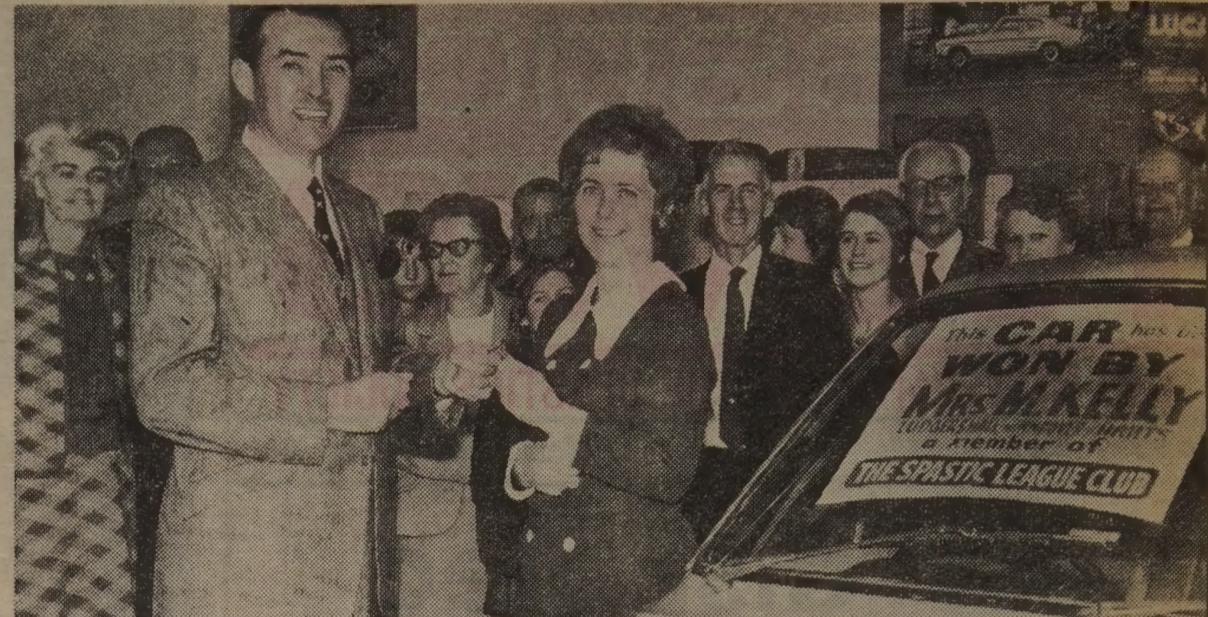
* * *

AMONG the many celebrities who drop in at the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre, a recent visitor was pop star Desmond Decker, whose current release "You can get it if you want," is near the top of the hit parade. He gave an impromptu concert for the residents and presented the Warden, Mr. D. Hazelton, with a cheque for £100—the proceeds of a dance held at Doncaster.

Mr. Decker has promised to return to Scunthorpe at a later date and give a full-scale concert in aid of the Centre.

* * *

ORGANISERS of the George Green Horse Show held during the summer in aid of spastics, recently presented a cheque for £180 to Mr. Sam Minson, Chairman of Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society.



Chief Superintendent Frank Lockyer hands over the keys of a Ford Escort de luxe to Mrs. Margaret Kelly, of Ludgershall, Hants., at Sloan's Garage, Amesbury. Mrs. Kelly won the car in the Charm Girl Competition No. 8. Also pictured are Mr. David Gardner (far right), Area Supervisor; Mr. R. G. Wheeler (third from right), the Collector, and Mrs. Mary Underwood (far left), Vice-chairman, Salisbury and District Spastics Association.

(Picture: Austin Underwood)



Mr. K. Rusholme, of Anlaby Common, Hull, is seen receiving his car at the showrooms of Crystal of Hull, from Capt. Jones, Chairman of the Hull and District Spastics Society. The winner won his car in Charm Girl Competition No. 9. A preliminary presentation of the car keys had already taken place during half-time of a Second Division match between Hull and Sheffield United and was seen by over 25,000 people.



Glamorous Miss Threlfall 1970 is pictured above presenting the keys of a Ford Escort to Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor of Melling, Liverpool, who won the car in Charm Girl Competition No. 8. Also featured are Mrs. Culley, the Collector, and Mr. Bob Taylor, the winner's husband. The reason for Mr. Taylor's apprehensive look is the fact that he has the task of teaching his wife to drive!

"TON-UP" BEFORE D-DAY

CUSTOMERS of the Flowing Well Inn, Sunningwell, Oxfordshire, are trying to raise a ton of pennies (£448) for charity before Decimal Day, 15th February, 1971.

Anyone who collects 25 lbs. automatically be-

comes a vice-president of the inn's Ton-up Club—and one member has so far raised over £13 with a swearbox in his office.

The pub has a huge wooden bottle and a firkin for the penny collection and customers are invited, for tuppence a time, to guess how much they will hold when full.

Already 13 cwt. has been collected towards the target with over three months to go. After D-Day there will be a grand share-out of the proceeds for cancer research, hospital equipment, the Cheshire Homes and The Spastics Society.

The money will be put towards the joint Bucks, Berks and Oxon Project for a short-stay home for adult spastics.

* * *

LOWESTOFT and North-East Suffolk Spastics Society is now firmly entrenched in the new Centre in Till Road. Every Wednesday evening, members come from all over the town and from out-lying districts to meet for a social evening in the hall. They call themselves "The Ness Pointers" and have their own social committee.

During the evening they play table games including draughts, skittles, bagatelle, card games and finish up with bingo or Beanie.

Famous names on panel of judges



Timothy Raison M.P.



Mrs. Mary Wilson



Cliff Michelmore



Mrs. Margery Hurst



Marjorie Proops

HERE ARE THE SECTIONS - NOW YOU CHOOSE

THERE are seven sections in the Literary Competition, including a special section for poetry which is open to spastics of all ages. For each of them we list suggested topics for you to write your story about but—don't forget—you may write on any subject or topic that appeals to you. These are the sections, and our suggestions:

Section 1

Schoolboy and Schoolgirl

- A. Juniors—up to 10 years of age.
- B. Seniors—up to 16 years of age.

Settling down at school: learning problems: taking exams: hobbies: sporting activities: special pets: your most memorable holiday: making friends: what you want to be when you grow up, and why: your favourite television or radio programme, and why: your views on pocket money, and how you spend yours: your favourite lessons—or the ones you like least, and why: special interests.

Section 2

The Adolescent & Young Spastic Adult

Thoughts on a career: teen-problems: dating: special interests: frustration on mental ability hampered by physical disability: special holidays: ambitions for the future: are parents too protective? making friends: the benefits of television: further education—benefits and problems: hobbies: sporting activities: who you'd most like to be—and why: views on student demonstrations: changes you'd like to see made: public attitudes: why can't THEY do something about . . . ?

Section 3

The Trainee at Work

How the opportunity of work training changed your life: the satisfaction of earning money: the difficulties of getting a job: attitudes of workmates and employers: job interviews: the first day at work: travelling problems: getting somewhere to live: the person who helped you to get started: the benefits or disadvantages of special transport for the disabled: how you learned to drive.

Section 4

Success or Achievement Stories

How you got to University: won the Duke of Edinburgh award: climbed a mountain: obtained and held down a good job: organised a club, or special outing: won a swimming championship: learned to walk: make jewellery: cook: type: weave: paint: etc.: how you achieved independence: your first holiday alone: how you learnt to sail; any special event you have taken part in.

Section 5

The Married Spastic

How you met your partner: how you overcame parental disapproval: how you learned to run a home—shopping, cooking, working to a budget: how you solved the accommodation problem: how you cope with the children: Memories of your wedding day.

Section 6

The Older Spastic

Special interests or hobbies: holidays: why you prefer (a) living in a residential centre, (b) living on your own: special difficulties you have overcome: accommodation problems: shopping difficulties: leisure activities: what was the happiest or most exciting day of your life?

Section 7

Poetry for spastics of all ages

Choose your own subject—you can submit as many entries as you wish under this section.

We have prizes for your stories in our literary contest

EVERYONE has a story to tell—but not everyone can win a prize by doing so! Now, spastics of all ages will have a chance of competing for cash awards in a literary competition organised by The Spastics Society. It starts on December 1 and is divided into sections, including one for poetry. Details of the sections and the prizes are given on the left.

All you need do is tell us a story. Not, necessarily, your life story. It could be about your problems, difficulties you have encountered (and perhaps beaten), what it's like to leave home and go to school, Work Centre, or a Residential Home for the first time. It could be about your holidays, whether you find it easy to make friends, or other people's reactions to you.

Think back! There could be a story in employment problems, how you have held down—or perhaps lost—jobs, successes you've had or battles you have won. You could tell, perhaps, about the problems of adolescence, dating or marriage.

Some spastics have sailed the Channel in a catamaran, or climbed Mount Snowdon. But don't be put off because you think you've done nothing spectacular. Little things can mean a lot, when there is a lot of effort behind them.

You may have had your first swimming lesson, or an educational cruise. You may have taken your first steps unaided, won a medal in the National Spastics Games or a Duke of Edinburgh award. You may have gone for your first interview for a job.

Tell us about it! Say, in

your own words, how you cope with life.

These are only guidelines. You can, of course, write on any subject or topic that appeals to you, up to 1,000 words in the schoolchildren's section, up to 2,000 words in all other sections.

There are a number of different sections for which you can enter—have a look at them and decide what you would like to write about. Poetry, remember, is included.

Now it's up to you

We have only given you a few ideas. You may have better ones. Closing date for entries for the competition, beginning on December 1, is Friday, February 26, 1971, so there is plenty of time. If you can't do the typing or writing for yourself ask someone to do it for you. But it must be in your own words.

Holiday was generous gift

THANKS to the generosity of an American lady, four young spastic girls have spent a wonderful holiday in Ballyvughan, County Clare.

Mrs. Charles H. Teall, of New Jersey had booked a holiday cottage in the village, but after she became ill was unable to take up the booking. Instead, she offered the use of the cottage booking to some Irish voluntary organisation at her expense.

The four girls, aged from 11 to 21, who attend the Cork Spastic Clinic, were chosen to spend a holiday there, together with their helpers. The Wheelchair Association and the Irish Red Cross also contributed to make it a memorable stay.

The schoolchildren's section is divided into two age groups: up to 10 years of age, and over 10 and up to 16. In both these age groups entries must not exceed 1,000 words, in other sections they must not exceed 2,000 words. They can be shorter if you wish—quality of writing is more important than length. No guide as to length can be given in the poetry section—you may wish to write a short poem, or one with several verses.

Book might result

Everyone is a budding writer at heart and we think you will enjoy taking part. If the entries reach a high enough standard they may be collected and published in book form—we have a publisher interested. The rest is up to you—and good luck!

Details and entry forms are available at schools, Centres, Local Group offices and '62 clubs. Entry forms can also be obtained from the Editor of Spastics News.

Get yours now. You need not be a literary genius to win. If you can write a letter you can tell a story. So have a go.

THE AWARDS TO BE WON

CASH prizes worth a total of £260 will be awarded in the Literary Competition, as follows:

SECTION 1 (for schoolchildren): £10 for the two best entries, one from a girl and one from a boy, in each of the two age groups (up to 10 years of age and up to 16 years of age). Entries must not exceed 1,000 words.

SECTIONS 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6: £20 to the two best entries, one from a male and one from a female, in each of these sections. Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.

POETRY: This is a special section for those who prefer to try their hand at poetry, and you can choose your own subject. £10 to the two best entries, one from a male (any age) and one from a female (any age). Entries may be any length.



Godfrey Winn



Christina Foyle

ALL ARE EXPERTS

NINE men and women, famous in their various fields, comprise the judging panel for The Spastic Society's Literary Competition.

MRS. MARY WILSON, wife of Mr. Harold Wilson, Leader of the Opposition, will judge the poetry section. Her recent book of selected poems has sold more than 55,000 copies.

Other sections will be judged by:

GODFREY WINN, veteran journalist who is equally well-known as an author, and broadcaster.

PETER PURVES, a star of the BBC's popular television programme for children, "Blue Peter."

MARJORIE PROOPS, feature writer of the "Daily Mirror" and women's magazines, and a television personality.

CLIFF MICHELMORE, one of Britain's best known television and radio personalities.

CHRISTINA FOYLE, managing director of the world-famous booksellers.

TIMOTHY RAISON, M.P. for Aylesbury, journalist and broadcaster and the first editor of "New Society."

MRS. MARGERY HURST, founder of the Brook Street Bureau which is the largest office staff employment agency in the world.

PETER NICHOLS — author and playwright, whose famous play "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" has been made into a film. The story deals with problems of parents of a severely physically and mentally handicapped spastic girl.



Pictured at the annual meeting examining a copy of the Society's Report and Accounts are the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Burn, the Director, Mr. James Loring, and the Society's solicitor, Mr. J. Thomlinson.

Must disabled go to law for their rights?

Continued from Page 1

operative, up to two-thirds of Britain's handicapped people will be denied the benefits of the new Act. This cannot be justified and must not be excused.

"The problem of the 'missing million' is as urgent as it is serious, and I warmly commend those Local Authorities which are now pressing ahead with the task of full registration without waiting for the Minister to act."

Family is involved

Mr. Morris said there were for more than two million people personally involved in the problems of severe disablement, and went on, "for we must all of us endorse the concept of the disabled family. If one member of a family is disabled then, by definition of the word family, the family itself is disabled.

"Many of the provisions of the new Act are of help to the families of disabled people as much as to disabled people themselves. For we can only help many of our disabled fellow-citizens if we are prepared to help the family as a whole.

"The logic of this is to accept that there are not two but perhaps upwards of six million people who are personally involved in the problems of severe disablement in Britain today. There is one other thought we should never forget as we look forward to new horizons for the disabled people of this country. It's the thought that potentially we are all disabled.

Race apart

"In drafting my Bill, I was convinced that what hurts the severely handicapped more than loss of faculty is the thought that they are often regarded, even sometimes treated, as if they were a separate species. Physical handicap

still invited severe social penalties.

"The disabled were not told to 'keep out' of town halls, art galleries, libraries and all kinds of other social buildings. But they might just as well have been. For most of our social buildings had been designed exclusively for the able-bodied. Sharp, twisting staircases, narrow corridors and awkward doorways can bar a chair-bound person as effectively as locked and bolted doors.

"Even University buildings were mostly designed on the assumption that dependence on walking aids or a wheelchair implies lack of scholastic ambition, while unmerited discrimination against the employable disabled seemed an axiom of some industrial managements.

As for many of our Local Authorities, they appeared to devote more ingenuity to avoiding rather than helping the disabled.

"Technological research has a major role to play in extending the mobility and independence of disabled people. Yet I found, when drafting my Bill, that we were spending only £350,000 a year on research and development to help the disabled and £250 million on military account."

More from the speech by Mr. Morris on Page 5.



Executive Council members Mr. W. J. Jehan and Miss J. Garwood discuss points raised at the meeting.

Finance is still Society's top priority problem

FINANCE is still the most urgent problem facing The Spastics Society, and must be our highest priority, said the Chairman, Mr. A. W. Burn, at the annual meeting of the Society. His powerful speech which detailed ways in which the Government should help charities with tax reforms and incentives to speed the flow of funds, was widely reported in the national and provincial Press and aroused great interest throughout the country.

Voluntary organisations, said Mr. Burn, were accepted by the Government as serving a vital need and—in some cases, such as that of The Spastics Society—as an extension of the Welfare State. Yet, he stressed, "This acceptance of our necessary aid in caring for society's weaker members has earned us virtually no consideration from the Treasury."

Again and again, said Mr. Burn, the Society had tackled the Treasury with a valid case for a comprehensive and sympathetic review of the tax structure as it adversely affected all charities and the handicapped. Again and again, they had come up against a brick wall of seeming indifference and negative arguments.

"NONSENSE"

Such arguments were described by Mr. Burn as "nonsense" and as merely masking a desire "to maintain the status quo." Initially, he said, tax concessions to charities and the handicapped would cost the Exchequer a moderate sum. However, long term the results would be beneficial to both ratepayer and taxpayer and actually save the country money.

He pointed out that many other countries had the ability and determination to operate a tax structure that benefits charities significantly and substantially, so "why not the United Kingdom?"

PROMISES

Since the Society's last approach to the Treasury, a new Government had taken office. He therefore called upon this Government to implement its election promises of help and encouragement to charities "without delay". There were countless reforms needed, said Mr. Burn, but four were of par-

administrative costs. Deeds of Covenant, therefore, must be replaced by a straightforward allowance against a tax assessment for all contributions to specifically approved charities.

Taxation relief for Companies donating to charities; and relief on dividends received by charities.

At present taxation relief to Companies was very limited. Instead relief should be allowed on all donations made to registered charities. Some scheme should also be devised whereby charities would be entitled to recover Corporation Tax directly attributable to their own dividends from their investments.

ESTATE DUTY

Estate Duty exemption in respect of bequests to charities.

Exemption on legacies to charities would give worthwhile encouragement to testators anxious to benefit charities of their choice. At present we had reliefs for agricultural land, for growing timber and for works of art—but no relief for charities. This must be rectified—and quickly.

Exemption from either purchase tax or its possible successor—value added tax, where tax of this type hits out at charities and those for whom they care—plus special postal concessions.

Exemptions here should cover all items made in workshops for the disabled, and all therapy products, as well as all goods made for, and adapted

for use by, the handicapped. Purchase tax should also be abolished on cars bought and used by disabled drivers, and special reliefs granted on all running expenses such as petrol and insurance.

Mr. Burn also put forward a plea for special postal concessions for Charity Christmas cards. He cautioned that if higher postal charges operated next year, minus any concessionary rates for greetings cards, this vitally important field of charitable revenue would be slashed dramatically.

"Act does not mean Utopia"

THE new Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act did not mean Utopia for all handicapped people, Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, told the delegates to the annual meeting. The Act was a framework, and it was up to the Society to ensure that all its provisions were implemented as soon as possible—and to pinpoint any shortcomings.

"If we are to use this Act to ensure the maximum benefits for the handicapped we should look upon it as a structure for a new Act in the future to help them further," he said.

Mr. Burn's final message at the close of the meeting was: "We must work together, regionally and in the Local Groups as a dedicated team to ensure the greatest good for the greatest number of spastics in the years ahead."

"No, we are not well off" says Treasurer



The Society's Treasurer, Mr.

D. B. E. Belsen is pictured with joint Vice-Chairmen Mr. H. W. Palmer and Mr. A. P. Moira, after he had told delegates about the Society's financial position.

While the overall figures had turned out better than had been expected at the beginning of the year, said Mr. Belsen, the Society was still in a very vulnerable position. He said: not only do we have the cost of living to contend with, but every time the Society spends a capital sum on building and equipping a new Centre for spastics it incurs run-

ning costs in perpetuity. Every achievement brings increased responsibility.

"Sometimes people look at

the larger figures and

think the Society is well

off, but in relation to the Society's vast work and increasing commitment all over the country we are a very long way from being well off."

Cash tops Tony's trek target

TONY MANSFIELD, the 22-years-old Staines man who walked 23 miles in aid of spastics (as reported in the October edition of Spastics News), has so far collected £725 from sponsors.

Tony, who is partially paralysed himself as the result of a road accident, completed the walk from Staines to Chiswick and back in 24 hours.

The money raised is already well in excess of his £500 target, and Tony thinks there may still be more contributions to come in.

The money will be given to the South West Middlesex Group of The Spastics Society, to start a holiday chalet fund.

'VERY STRONG CASE FOR MINISTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED'

THE annual statement by Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society "always merits the closest attention of the Government's departments of state" said Mr. Morris in his speech to the annual meeting.

He backed the call by Mr. Burn in this year's statement for a Minister for the Handicapped to be appointed to co-ordinate responsibilities and champion the cause.

Mr. Morris said that the Government should look "both seriously and sympathetically" at the idea, and ensure that there was a senior minister with the duty of co-ordinating all responsibilities "in this deeply sensitive field of Government activity."



The annual meeting was attended by Local Group representatives from all over the country, and among them was Mr. H. E. Holt, treasurer of Welwyn Garden City and District Group, who is pictured putting a question during the business section of the important day. After the conclusion of the meeting, and the speech by Mr. Morris, the delegates took part in a Conference on "Society and the Disabled." Following an introductory talk by the Director they broke up into Regional study groups to discuss vital issues concerning the future of the handicapped. Members were particularly concerned with the action that could be taken by Local Groups to ensure that the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act was fully implemented at Local Authority level as soon as possible.

Elected to the Executive Council

Mr. I. M. Thomas of 4 Claremont Road, Culcheth, near Warrington, Lancs., has been elected to the Executive Council of The Spastics Society.

A civil engineer, attached to the Atomic Energy Authority, Mr. Thomas is well-known for his charitable work. Chairman of the Urmston and District Spastics Group for the past seven years, he is also a former Chairman of the North Western Region of The Spastics Society.

Re-elected to the Executive Council were:

Mrs. Lillian Stockdale, of Cecil Avenue, Sale, who is a full time voluntary worker, is a past county councillor for Cheshire and was a member of Sale Borough Council for five years.

She is chairman of the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society and is also actively connected with a number of other charities and organisations in Cheshire.

Mrs. Stockdale is also a member of The Spastics Society's Appeals and Services Committees and is its appointed representative to the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

Mr. J. L. Peterson, warden of University House, Victoria Park Square, E.2, is the Society's representative to the Institute for Research into Mental Retardation, and Board of Governors of the College of Special Education.

He is also a member of The Spastics Society's Services and Educational Advisory committees.

Miss Jean Garwood, Winwood, Oaks Road, Croydon, was a founder member of the Society in 1952. Miss Garwood also

He claimed that there were many informed observers of Whitehall who felt there was a very much stronger case for a Minister for the Handicapped than for the re-setting up of a separate Ministry of Aviation.

Mr. Burn declared in his annual statement:

"I am more than ever convinced that, in order to co-ordinate all activities in the interests of the disabled, we need a Minister for the Handicapped. Surely the spastics, the paraplegics, the blind, the chronically sick and the men-

tally retarded merit an eloquent and effective voice at Cabinet level—a champion in a position of power and responsibility—to present their case and co-ordinate the complexity of Departments which are concerned with their welfare.

"They cannot fight for themselves. They cannot embark on protest marches. They cannot strike for better conditions. They must wait, often helplessly on the sidelines, and hope for a better future to replace the cruel and frustrating realities of today.

"There are so many wrongs to be put right that perhaps the time has come for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the situation of the handicapped.

"In addition to pinpointing all those shortcomings and injustices suffered by the disabled, the Commission would suggest positive ways in which the Government could aid the service charities which are working with compassion and conviction to ease the lot of a depressed minority."

"Add life to their years..."

QUOTE from Mr. Alfred Morris, M.P., at the annual meeting. He said that the new Act of Parliament—which he inspired—had been described as "the most significant advance in social provision for the long-term sick and disabled in this or any other country," but there were still attitudes to change and new goals to reach. He said:

"The Society we must seek is one where there is genuine respect for the handicapped; where understanding is unstinting and sincere; where needs come before means; where, if years cannot be added to the lives of the very sick, at least life can be added to their years; where the mobility of disabled people is restricted only by the bounds of technical progress and discovery; where the handicapped have a fundamental right to participate in industry and society according to ability; where socially preventable distress is unknown; and where no man has cause to feel ill at ease because of his disability."

"We were charged too much" they say

SPASTICS who cannot manage public transport often find it difficult enough to pay taxi fares at the standard rate without being grossly overcharged—as a young Sheffield couple claim to have been recently.

Mr. Glyn Vernon and his girlfriend Susan Woodbine ordered a taxi to take them to a cinema in the centre of the city. They paid 37s. 6d. for the journey and asked the driver to pick them up later outside the cinema.

After the film, the couple waited for some time but the taxi did not arrive, so they went to a nearby rank to hire a cab from another firm. The homeward journey by a shorter route cost 22s. 6d.—over a third less than the outward trip.

The next day, Miss Woodbine made a telephone check with the original firm, who now quoted 22s. 6d. for the journey. Mr. Vernon and a friend at Sheffield University sent separate letters to the firm, protesting about the detour, which had made a difference of 15s. 6d. in the price, but neither received a reply.

Mr. Vernon and Miss Woodbine have now written to their M.P., Mr. Peter Hardy, about the matter.

A spokesman for the taxi firm told a local newspaper that they had no trace of the letters and the price of 22s. 6d. quoted to Miss Woodbine over the telephone had been a mistake.

Hobby grew into lively business for Peter

PETER Stokes was unable to walk until he was five years old—and still hardly able to read or write at the age of 11. Now 27 he has overcome his physical handicaps and is in business as a chicken farmer.

As a youngster normal games were out of the question. It was then that his father suggested he should keep a few hens as a hobby. Now Peter Stokes has a stock

by
JOHN CROSS

of 1,200 birds producing some 280 dozen eggs a week from a farm at Chipping Norton.

His untoward start in life was caused by cerebral palsy which affected speech and limbs. But his parents encouraged plenty of physical exercise.

He walked the two miles to school each day although normal school games were out of the question.

The young Peter Stokes was also encouraged to keep a few hens as a hobby and he took to the idea with enthusiasm, gradually building up to a pen of 50 on land rented from the council.

But then a minor disaster struck—the land was needed for building and had to be handed back. It seemed as if three years' work was in vain.

An appeal was made to The Spastics Society in London—and it was able to buy a plot of land in Chipping Norton and lease it back to Peter at a nominal rent.

Aided by his father, the land was cleared, hedges repaired and the chicken houses erected.

But it was not easy. The site of the chicken farm incorporated a steep slope and danger came with the wet weather which turned the

slope into a slippery menace. These conditions could be difficult enough for a normally agile person but they were positively dangerous for a handicapped person whose problem was heightened by slow reflexes.

Apart from the physical danger as he slithered or went full stretch on the slippery slope, he lost several buckets full of his precious eggs in the process.

Again The Spastics Society came to his aid, this time by paying the cost for a concrete pathway to be laid down to make it easier for him to negotiate the incline.

Problems did not end there because the journey between the chicken farm and his home included a long and very steep hill, which, because of his disability, became a mammoth task he had to undertake daily.

After a while a stroke of luck came his way when his father eventually managed to obtain a house adjacent to the chicken farm; this was a real boon and meant an end to the hill struggle.

Now all his efforts were directed at the chicken farm, from the half a dozen hens with which he started, his stock now numbers some 1,200 birds.

Output is about 280 dozen eggs per week, of which 150 dozen are shipped to an egg packing station and the remainder to local shops.

And an egg delivery round he has built up is aided by his father who drives him around each Friday evening to make his deliveries throughout the year.

Despite the rising costs of feeding stuffs further complicated by seasonal drops in egg prices, he still talks of improving his buildings and increasing stock as soon as capital permits it.

Even if Peter Stokes does not manage to build his business up to gigantic proportions, he can claim an extremely valuable and worthwhile victory against heavy odds.

(Article and picture reprinted by courtesy of the Banbury Guardian).



Peter Stokes feeding the hens at the chicken farm he runs at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.



A touching moment came when Andrew Pounder, aged four, pushed his school friend Sarah Corbey, aged five, into the assembly hall at White Lodge for Sarah to present a posy of flowers to the Duchess of Kent.



The Duchess unveils a commemorative plaque recording the occasion. On the left is Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society.



Housemothers Mrs. A. M. Roulet and Mrs. F. J. Kent told the Duchess about their work at the Centre. The little girl is Fiona Woolley, and the little boy who is too young to understand about Royal visits and therefore concentrates on his absorbing game, is Simon Glasheen.



On arrival at White Lodge, the Duchess was met by the Earl of Munster, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, and among the guests he presented were, from left: Rt. Rev. Kenneth Evans, Bishop of Dorking, and Mrs. Evans; Mr. K. Furlonger, Chairman of Chertsey Council, and Mrs. Furlonger; Mr. R. J. Matthews, Chief Constable of Guildford, and Mrs. Matthews; the Rev. R. B. T. Gardner, Vicar of Lyne, and Mrs. Gardner.

Chairman: State can never provide everything

Charity will have important future

WHEN the Welfare State was created many people believed that charitable effort would eventually become unnecessary but the reverse has happened, said Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, when he spoke at the official opening by the Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Society, of the new Treatment Unit at White Lodge Children's Day Centre, Chertsey, Surrey. In the last 25 years, said Mr. Burn, there had been a rapid growth of voluntary effort throughout the country which "has striven to match our increasingly high aspirations for the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

He went on: "We as a community have sensed, with characteristic British wisdom, that the State will never be able to provide all that is necessary for people who are ailing or deprived, and without more ado we have set about helping to provide for them ourselves."

"I have never regarded the existence of voluntary provision as an important criticism of the State or Local Authorities although one would wish that more public funds could be made available specifically for the benefit of the handicapped."

"The Spastics Society sees itself as having an important future in supplementing State provision, identifying new areas of care and initiating pioneering projects all over England and Wales which Local Authorities can emulate."

Big effort

In welcoming the Duchess of Kent to the Centre, Mr. Burn said that her visit represented the culmination of 14 years of effort by the Society and affiliated Local Groups.

He told the Duchess that in 1956 facilities for treating and educating spastics in the area were very few, and a group of dedicated and determined voluntary workers decided they would provide help themselves. They began by renting an old village hall for three days a week.

"Since those days activities have increased dramatically and the Local Groups concerned—the North Hampshire and West Surrey Spastics Society, the North West Surrey Group and the South West Surrey Group—have become in-

volved in the building of one of the best Day Centres for spastic children in the world."

The task of planning, building and raising funds for the Centre and the new extension was not an easy one, said Mr. Burn. The main Centre opened in 1961 and cost £40,000, and later, help came from Mr. Richard Hearne—Mr. Pastry—who presented the Centre with a hydrotherapy pool. The opening of the new extension was the latest, but, he was certain, not the last chapter in the successful expansion of White Lodge.

Mr. Burn said that the extension provided urgently needed extra classrooms, physiotherapy and speech therapy rooms and other facilities, and went on:

"Most of the capital needed of £30,000 was raised locally during a strenuous fund-raising effort by the three Local Groups concerned and the Friends of White Lodge, an association which came into being specifically to extend the scope of the Centre through this project."

"I hope that you will forgive me for making these references to fund-raising but money is now an increasingly vital factor in our work. It was not easy to raise a total of nearly £100,000 from voluntary sources for this project. That it has been done is evidence of the great good health of The Spastics Society and indeed the voluntary movement throughout this country."

The Duchess of Kent said that she was very pleased that Mr. Burn had spelt out so clearly the cost of building the Centre and the new Unit.

She said: "The total is a very large sum indeed to have been raised by voluntary means, and I think the Societies, Groups



Informality was the keynote of the Royal visit. A typical moment during the tour of the Centre, Miss J. Hovenden looks on as a child is assisted.

and individuals concerned should be warmly congratulated on this effort.

"One cannot help be encouraged by the never failing store of generosity in this country to the people who are less well off. So often it is the people who can ill afford to give money away who give so generously."

The achievement of White Lodge, said the Duchess, reminded her of the enormous progress and success of The Spastics Society which continued to do so much throughout the country, largely through the sheer hard work of a dedicated band of workers. "We are all conscious though, that a great deal more remains to be done," she said. "It is challenging work which grips the imagination and deserves our support."

Children

The Duchess said that she had been fortunate in visiting two Centres for adult spastics previously, but White Lodge was the first Centre she had visited concerned with the treatment and training of children.

It was now generally accepted, she said, that early identification of cerebral palsy was of utmost importance, and equally important was that treatment was started as early as possible in a child's life. This was also of practical and psychological help to the parents.

The aim was to provide a foundation from which a handicapped child could develop interests and make its own contribution to life, and, said the Duchess:

"You have one of the finest Centres that exist but it is little more than bricks and mortar without the staff. It is on their skill and experience which the children depend."

After the Duchess of Kent had declared the new Unit officially open and unveiled a commemorative plaque, she was

thanked by Mr. Chairman of the Committee of White Lodge Centre. Seconding the resolution of thanks, Mr. James, the Director of The Spastics Society, said that catered for a large number of very young children, and the work was very important. The Duchess said that the new extension should start as soon as possible, he said. The growth of nurseries would be one of the main tasks and the future.

White Lodge Centre was originally founded to provide education and treatment for 50 children, it now has 90 boys and girls, under 8 age group, whom are severely handicapped. But the waiting list, therefore, is long. The modus operandi is to provide special training for children in many centres, and the future.

Included in the new extension are two extra classrooms, physiotherapy, speech therapy and surgery. The Spastics Society has donated £11,000 towards the cost.

Because of the high cost necessary to provide for the handicapped, the new extension is expensive to maintain. Running costs are over £1,200 each year, and this sum has to be raised through voluntary efforts.

White Lodge Centre is an excellent example of how voluntary self-help can succeed. Since the Centre has been opened, hundreds of physically handicapped children have been able to walk and develop to their full potential. In this process, it has been possible to raise large sums of money.



the Royal visit. This picture shows our of the Centre as the Duchess level to play with him. Nurse den looks on.

by Mr. D. A. Bell, of the Executive of White Lodge regarding the address, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics said that White Lodge or a large number of children. It was important that the training should start as early as he said, and the of nursery education one of the Society's tasks and objectives in

Lodge Centre was originally to provide and treatment for up children, it now caters for and girls, mainly in the age group, most of are severely handicapped. But there is still a list. The extra accommodation, therefore, was needed to provide training facilities for in many parts of Sur and North Hamp

in the extension are classrooms, three therapy rooms, two therapy rooms and a The Spastics Society £11,000 towards the

Expensive

the high staff necessary when caring for handicapped, White Lodge is expensive to maintain costs amount to £100 each month. Most of the team has to be found by efforts as the Local contribution is

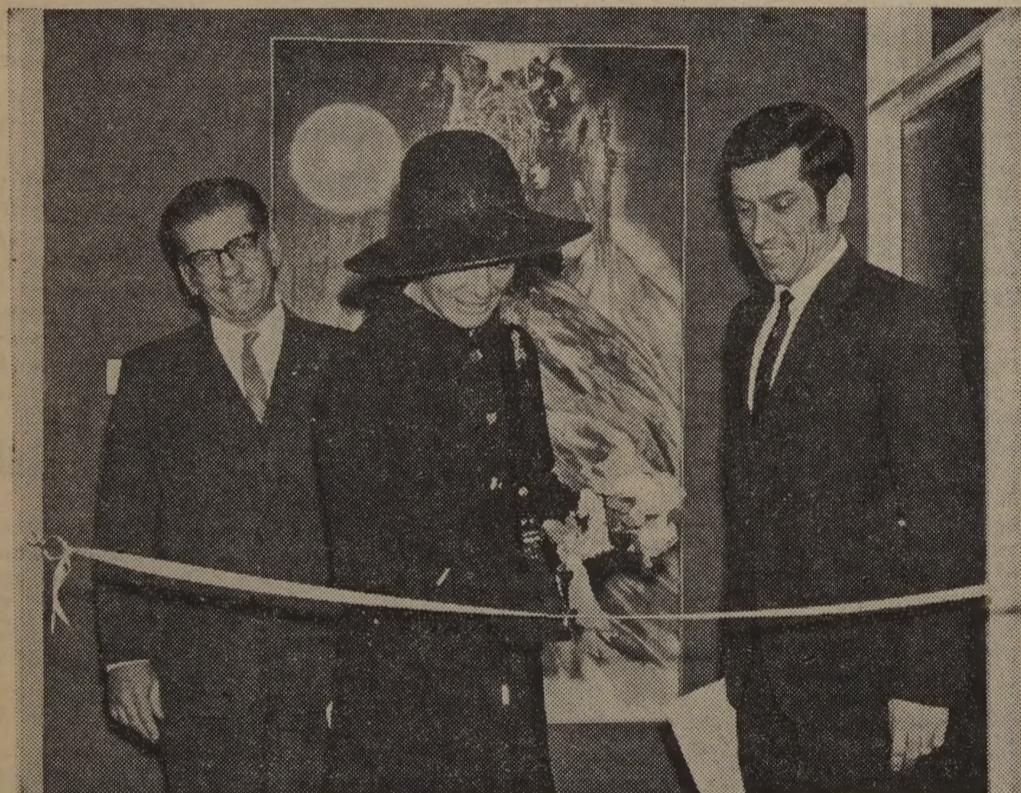
Lodge therefore is an example of community help. Since its inception the centre has helped hundreds of physically and mentally handicapped spastic children walk... talk... and to their full mental In this humanitarian it has saved both the and the taxpayer millions of money.



"Can you swim?" That was the question when the Duchess met 10-year-old Susan Eales of Woking, in the hydrotherapy pool. "Well, not really," replied Susan, but she was encouraged by the Duchess to show what she could do. The Duchess kept count, and after Susan's best efforts told her: "You did eight strokes, that's very good." Also in the picture are Mr. Burn and

Mr. D. A. Bell, Chairman of the executive committee of White Lodge.

BELOW: A proud moment for everyone who worked so hard to raise money for the new extension at White Lodge and make it, as the Duchess said "one of the finest Centres that exists" came when she cut the tape, and the new building was officially open.



Could you offer a holiday?

EVERY year at the Fitzroy Square Centre, a small number of enquiries are received from overseas families who would like their handicapped child to spend a holiday in this country with a British family.

May I ask through your columns if there are any families who would be interested in accommodating a spastic child from abroad for a holiday, either as a paying guest or on a holiday exchange basis.

Perhaps any interested families would care to contact me giving some idea of when they might be able to offer accommodation and also the type of child (boy or girl, age, degree of handicap) they would be prepared to accept.

With grateful thanks,
Mrs. W. R. Greenwood,
Holiday Organiser,
Family Services and Assessment Centre,
16 Fitzroy Square,
London, W1P 5HQ.

Remember
we are
adults

WHY is it that so many people speak and write letters to adult spastics as if they were children? Some, of course, are unfortunately mentally retarded, but surely it is worth while seeing how much mental effort they are capable of before writing them off as useless. Also, spastic children

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IVE been so interested to read in the last two editions of Spastics News about the new deal for the disabled.

I am more than delighted to see that something has come to light for the disabled at last, as so many of us, like myself, have been shut away in hospitals or institutions in the past. Therefore, we have not had our proper say in life or even had a chance to express our views. This is the reason that I'm so glad that the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act has been passed.

I can remember when a few people started The Spastics Society with so little £5 I think it was), and in a small space of time, brought the public attention to the cause of these unfortunate people. I believe there were even some people who were not aware what a spastic was. The Spastics Society has done a wonderful job in getting homes, workshops and different schools for them.

On another subject—we now read of a terrible blow which I believe is to happen next year in the postal service. I understand that 2d. is to go on the 4d. post and 2d. on the 5d., and meeting this will be very difficult for charities.

Now that we have a Conservative Government which believes in independence and free enterprise, how on earth do they expect the charities such as The Spastics Society, the Cheshire

Homes, those for the blind and so on, to carry on their good work if all this extra expense is burdened upon them? I believe that in Switzerland they have a National post office stamp for this kind of work. The new charges will obviously make a considerable difference to the Christmas card trade as I believe people will now write letters in preference to cards.

I am hoping that Mr. Christopher Chataway, M.P. will find a way round this problem and will get the plan altered.

Mr. John Pudney,
Angers House,
2 Church Road,
Wavertree,
Liverpool, 15.

should be encouraged as far as possible to speak in a normal way. A baby voice may be attractive when one first learns to talk, but ceases to be so as one grows up. Again, why do people ask spastics if they are having "a little walk" and observe that it is "a nice day for them"?

All this smacks of "talking down" and it is the desire of all spastics to be treated as normally as possible. It is the highest compliment one can pay to spastics to treat them in this way, and it helps them to go from strength to strength.

Miss MURIEL DELL
Gladys Holman House,
Rosewarne,
Camborne, Cornwall.

Our kind helpers

YOU'RE never too old and never too young to help spastics: A few years ago you very kindly printed an article about a supporter of Hawksworth Hall. He would be then in his late 80's. You will be pleased to know that, at 95 years of age, Mr. Howarth still supports us by bringing along an annual donation.

Amongst our elderly supporters are two ladies who raise money by the sale of their beautiful embroidery.

From the old to the young, we count amongst our many friends the infants and juniors of Rawdon C. of E. School, and Rawdon Littlemoor School, who by their own fund-raising efforts help to support Hawksworth.

Mr. J. D. Johnson,
Headmaster,
Hawksworth Hall School,
Guiseley,
Nr. Leeds,
Yorks.

Riding to a new horizon

HORSE riding is one of the recreational activities most enjoyed by spastic adults and children, and in addition, it is recognised as an important form of therapy.

The joy of riding and the new horizon it can open for the handicapped is touchingly expressed in this poem by Mr. John Davies, Manager and Instructor at the Riding Centre for the Disabled, Grange Farm Centre, Chigwell, Essex.

I SAW A CHILD

I saw a child who couldn't walk
sit on a horse, laugh and talk.
Then ride it through a field of daisies
and yet he could not walk unaided.

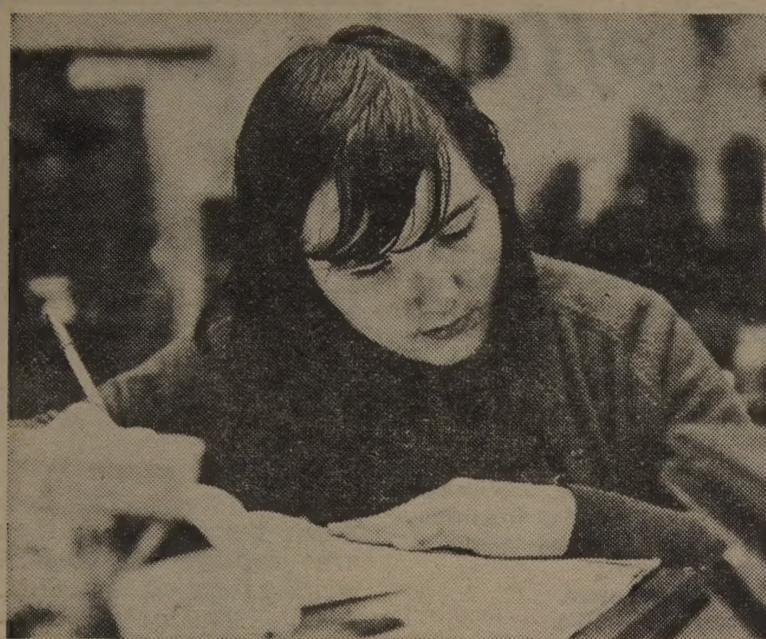
I saw a child, no legs below,
sit on a horse and make it go
through woods of green
and places he had never been
to sit and stare
except from a chair.

I saw a child who could only crawl
mount a horse and sit up tall.
Put it through degrees of paces
and laugh at the wonder in our faces.

I saw a child born into strife,
Take up and hold the reins of life
and that same child was heard to say,
Thank God for showing me the way...



Big moment of the day came for Simon Hawkings when the Duchess visited the primary classroom and found him at work with teacher Mrs. Weston. The Duchess was very interested in the teaching and training methods at White Lodge.



WHEN the Evening News at Bolton, Lancashire, printed this picture of Sharon Hennigan, they described her as a "girl in a million—or at least in thousands—who is using her considerable disabilities as an inspiration to further successes."

A nice compliment for 18-year-old Sharon, of Moore Street, Bolton, and obviously a well-deserved one. For Sharon, proud owner of A-levels in history and English has just started a very good job with the Westminster Bank in Bolton. She is the first of the pupils who have attended Birtenshaw Hall School for Spastics since it opened in 1956 to take A as well as O-levels and to find such an excellent job.

Says Mr. D. A. Hiles, headmaster of Birtenshaw Hall: "She came to us when the school first opened, and from an academic point of view she's our best success to date. Hers is a great achievement."

Sharon went on from Birtenshaw Hall to the Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, and was a pupil from 1963. While at Thomas Delarue, Sharon enjoyed wheelchair dancing, and she is now

Award for Andrew



Andrew Faulkner, 17, spent a year at Sherrards Training Centre for Spastics at Welwyn Garden City and won the Peter Richardson Memorial Award. This is presented annually to the Centre's most outstanding trainee.

Andrew, who comes from Northampton, is now working as a capstan lathe operator for an engineering firm in his home town. Picture by courtesy of Northampton Chronicle.

ENGAGEMENT NOTICE
WOOD—COLLARD. The engagement is announced of Patricia, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Collard, of 27 Bala Road, Gabalfa, Cardiff, to Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wood, of 35 East Street, Pontypridd.

teaching this to the children at Birtenshaw Hall. A busy life for Sharon, but she has plans for even more activity as she is looking for a Rangers group to join in her spare time.

Picture of Sharon by courtesy of Tillotsons Newspapers Ltd.

Generosity at "The Dolphin"

DISC JOCKEY Alan Freeman went to "The Dolphin" public house, Fife Road, Kingston, Surrey in November, to push over a £300 pile of pennies raised for spastics.

The towering pile of pennies, is the fourth raised at "The Dolphin" in aid of spastics. Comedian Leslie Crowther, actress Sylvia Syms and Coronation Street's Jack Howarth knocked down the three previous piles which totalled £548 8s. 9d. altogether.

So, to date, generous customers at the particular public house have contributed well over £800 to help handicapped men, women and children.

Says a Spastics Society spokesman: "We are very grateful indeed."



At the start of a sponsored walk in aid of the Colchester Disablement Income Group, The Bishop of Colchester, Dr. Roderic Coote and the Mayor and Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs. Richard Wheeler help with the chair-pushing. Twenty people in wheelchairs took part. They included residents from The Spastics Society Centres at Drummonds and Oakwood, and from Wakes Hall, the Residential Centre run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

Our young children need a flying start in education

by JAMES LORING

TODAY'S demand for more pre-school education goes far beyond the needs of a growing army of married women workers to have a convenient "child minding" service. It has been stimulated by the interest in the way that children learn, and whether starting their education before the conventional age of five will help their later progress. Add this to the knowledge that very young children can be taught to read — some claim as early as 18 months — plus the vocal calls for more money to be spent giving pre-schoolers a flying educational start, and the increasing concern is understandable.

How does this fashionable movement towards pre-school education affect the handicapped child? This question must be answered against the knowledge that early diagnosis, assessment and treatment of handicapped children is of great importance.

In the case of spastic children it is often very difficult to make a clear diagnosis before nine months, although some paediatricians have demonstrated that the optimum period for diagnosis of handicap is seven days.

They claim that after the first week, some important signs of neurological abnormality disappear, to re-appear much later.

Full potential

We know that if a handicapped child is to achieve full potential, and his family is to be spared anxiety, it is desirable that he should have a planned therapeutic programme during the early years. The principal aim is to diagnose the handicap as accurately as possible, to offer required medical treatment, to support the parents, and to include the child in a stimulating environment with other youngsters.

Unhappily this ideal is far from the reach of many handicapped children, yet there is very little dispute that they benefit from membership of playgroups and nursery classes with normal children. Many handicapped children are seriously deprived of sensory experience and of the rough and tumble of ordinary childhood, and the sooner they can be put

into a more or less normal setting the better.

The Spastics Society has played its part; no less than 30 of our Centres cater for children under the age of seven, and approximately 550 children benefit. The majority of them are educable, but an important number are severely subnormal.

Programmes at these Centres vary a great deal. In some, particularly those which specialise in caring for profoundly subnormal children, the activity is enlightened child minding. In others nursery education is provided.

The important question now is to what extent should we try to expand these facilities? Is it really worthwhile ploughing large sums of money into creating Centres for very young children?

My answer

I believe that in humanitarian terms the answer must be Yes. But in narrow educational terms, what do we achieve at these Centres? Here the answer is not so clear cut.

At many of the Centres children are improved, and prepared for education in ordinary primary schools. Others go on to schools for the educationally subnormal, but we have never yet made a detailed examination of the nature and quality of the pre-school education we

provide, nor have we decided which is the best way to organise it. For instance we have ignored, in many cases, the possibility of involving the mothers of handicapped children—tending instead to regard the Centres as the preserve of the professional worker.

The opposite is true of the Opportunity Classes which are being created outside the Society for the under sevens, including children with any form of mental or physical handicap. The idea is to enable them to mix with normal children, and to enable mothers to meet—partly for social activities, and partly to help them cope with the problems of dealing with their handicapped children.

A very good example is the Opportunity Class at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, which is sponsored by a part-time, grant-aided voluntary nursery school which meets daily in a Methodist Church. The handicapped children, their mothers and other pre-school children of the family, arrive in a minibus owned by the class, and while the children play, the mothers have their own meeting.

The day to day running of the class is handled by a trained Nursery Nurse who plans activities and organises the other helpers; she is the only paid staff member. The others are volunteers, but include nurses, teachers and medical social workers as well as the untrained helpers.

Pioneer

The pioneer work in the establishment of the Stevenage Class was by Dr. Ronald Faulkner, and in assessing the effect on the family, the child and the community, he reports that the mothers attending are less anxious, and, as a result, they and their families accept realistically the handicapped child's potential. The children benefit from this, and from the social pressures of a group, with the result that they have progressed in their ability to relate to others.

Opportunity Classes are not the only new development in pre-school care. Adventure playgrounds for handicapped children are an exciting idea—one has been established near the Cheyne Walk Spastics Centre, Chelsea, and largely through the work of the Pre-School Playgroups Association an increasing number of play-

groups are being established throughout the country.

The chance of simply playing and mixing with other children is vital, but for the handicapped the importance of the classes, groups and nurseries, is in the prospect of continuing educational and medical assessment. In the past, children have so often been given I.Q. labels, frequently by people not properly trained in assessment procedures and these have remained during childhood.

Important

The Society has learned however, that for the handicapped child, assessment must be continuous through the whole of his school life. Probably the most important period is in the early years when adult functions are beginning to develop, and weaknesses and potential are becoming apparent. During this time trained staff can help make good the deficits and improve the potential abilities. It is therefore important that within the playgroup or Opportunity Class there should be a programme of work supervised by a professional who understands the developmental problems of handicapped children.

It is only fair to say that there is a small but growing informed opinion which doubts

the value of pre-school education. They base their views largely upon research into the "Head Start" programmes in America, which, in the belief that some coloured and Puerto Rican children were retarded because they suffered from inferior home environments, provided them with enriching experiences and opportunities to make good the home deficiencies.

These "Head Start" children were compared with youngsters outside the programme, and the general conclusion seems to have been that there was little difference in progress.

Personally, I do not think it is sensible to draw a parallel between this research and the needs of handicapped children. Our own direct experience is that so many children reach special schools quite unprepared, because they have been deprived of many childhood experiences, been over protected at home, and, as a result, are emotionally retarded.

Short sighted

I think that the failure to provide pre-school facilities for handicapped children is very short sighted, both in human and economic terms. I am convinced that it is a long-term

Continued on Page 10



Cheery wave from Michael Bentine after opening a coffee morning held by the Felixstowe branch of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society. Apart from raising funds, the event provided useful publicity for the newly-formed branch. A feature was an exhibition of work made by spastics.

Photo by courtesy of East Anglian Daily Times Group

THERE'S no problem in holding a tea party when you are able bodied. Steady hands have no difficulty in preparing sandwiches and cakes, making the tea, and then serving it to your guests.

But if you are a heavily handicapped spastic then every action which the sound in body take for granted is a monumental effort, and your simple tea party could become an embarrassment of spilled cups and overturned plates.

That is why the tea party held at the Society's Family Services and

Strikers agreed to transport appeal

A PERSONAL appeal to Council strikers in the recent "Dirty Jobs" dispute was made by Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, over the plight of handicapped children unable to attend special schools because of the stoppage of work by drivers.

In a confrontation on B.B.C. television's "Nationwide" Mr. Loring told the strike leader in the east London borough of Newham that the strike was causing real hardship to the children and their families.

WELCOMED

He asked if he could visit the depot to talk to the strikers about the very special problems of the handicapped, and he was told that he would be welcome.

After Mr. Loring's talk to the strikers—and he says he found the men very "warm-hearted"—a vote was taken and it was agreed that drivers of special coaches for transporting handicapped children would return to work the next day.



I would like to thank you for publishing so prominently in your November edition our request for a home for a spastic child. We have so far had two replies which we are following up. I am most grateful to you for your help.

Mr. J. H. Norman,
Borough Children's Officer
London Borough of Barnet.

EMPLOYMENT MOVES AND

RECENT employment moves and news are as follows, (training centres in brackets):—

JEANETTE ADAMS from Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, who has recently completed a course of further education at the Society's Dene Park Centre is working as a clerk in Hanley.

SANDRA BOOKER from Glascottbury (Lancaster) is now

working as a junior clerk in a local garage.

ANTHONY HARNOTT from Wallasey (Lancaster) is employed by a local firm as an assembly worker.

ANDREW HEWITT from Sheffield (Lancaster) is working as a trainee setter on pneumatic sizing machines in the roll forge department of a local manufacturing concern.

ANN HOLMES from Kirkby is

employed as a trainee sewing machinist by a manufacturing concern in Liverpool.

URSULA LEES from Tunbridge Wells is now working locally as a general clerk.

FRANCES NEVILLE from London is now working as a clerk in a departmental store.

JOHN TURNER from Ashton-under-Lyne (Lancaster) is working as a clerk for Manchester Corporation.

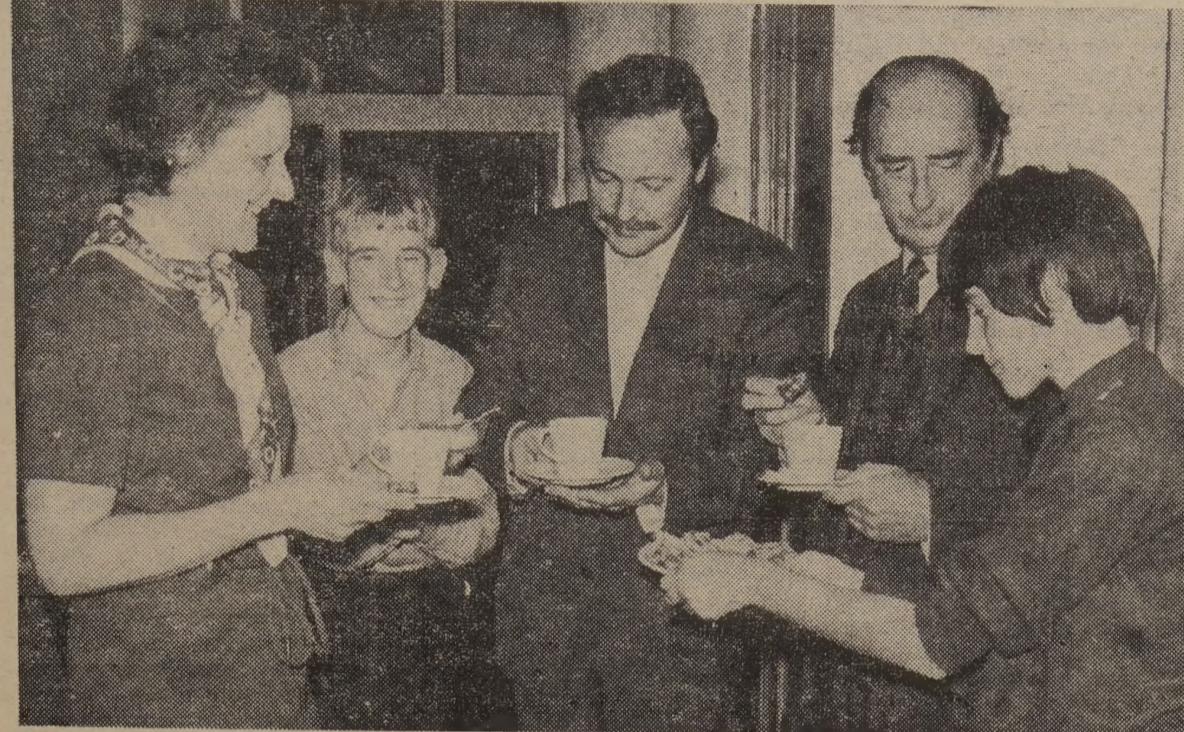
employed as a trainee sewing machinist by a manufacturing concern in Liverpool.

"We were very proud of them," says Miss Margaret

Morgan, Head of the Society's Social Work and Employment Department, which has its administra-

tive base at the Fitzroy Square Centre. "They made the cakes and tea, and entertained their visitors beautifully, and because the children are so heavily handicapped we felt that their little party was a big achievement."

Miss Morgan helped the children by providing them with a cake recipe that is as delicious to eat as it is as simple to make. If you would like to try it, turn to the "My Favourite Recipe" feature on page 11.



Christopher Doughty hands the sugar and Pat Cook offers the cakes to left, Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of the Society's Social Work and Employment Department; centre, Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director, Services, and right, Dr. Donald Gough.



A group of children from Meldreth who took part in the course and who were hosts and hostesses at the tea party.



Deborah Nuttall with Miss B. M. Ogden, a Local Authority social worker.



Christopher Doughty presides at the tea trolley, with left, Mrs. Caroline Kemp, a graduate trainee at the Centre, and Miss S. M. Chapman, senior training and placement officer.



Tea for two: Steven Wallington with social worker Mrs. J. Kingston.

Where to buy and help in the season of giving

LONDON'S East Enders are renowned for their compassion and generosity, and The Spastics Society is hoping for record sales from the Hackney shop which opened on November 23 to sell Christmas cards, calendars and wrapping paper.

The shop is at 44, Urswick Road, Hackney, E.9., and will be open six days a week from 9.15 to 5.15.

A wide variety of attractive Christmas cards, ranging from as little as 4d. a card with envelope, to 2s. for superb Fine Art designs, will be available. Many of them have been designed and printed by heavily handicapped spastics them-

selves. Lovely calendars include country scenes and glittering children's Advent calendars. Prices from as little as 2s. 3d. with gift mailing envelope, up to 7s. 6d. for those with throw over bindings.

Packs of Christmas wrapping paper, each containing six gaily printed sheets, start at 1s. 9d. a packet. There are also gift boxes, ribbon packs, gift bows and parcel tags—everything needed to get ahead with those Christmas packages.

Another special Christmas shop to help spastics opened on the same day at 40, Station Approach, Hayes, Kent.

The shop has been kindly lent until Christmas by A. R. Waylett and Co., the Hayes stationers, and will carry a wide variety of attractive jewellery made by heavily handicapped spastics, a range of unusual hand-made Christmas table, wall and door decorations, as well as secondhand ornaments

and knick knacks of all kinds at modest prices.

Toys, ornaments and household items in good condition will be gratefully received for sale in the shop if delivered to: West Kent Spastics Society, 17, Park Road, Bromley, Kent between 9.15 a.m. and 4.15 p.m. Volunteers willing to help man the shop (minimum age 16) should apply to the same address.

Proceeds from the Christmas sale will go to The Spastics Society and the West Kent Spastics Society.

Chartered Physiotherapist interested in working with a closely knit team and keen to work experimentally in the latest group therapy methods with cerebrally palsied children. Whitley Council scales and opportunities to attend relevant conferences and courses. Single accommodation available. School Holidays.

Apply to: The Headmistress, Ingfield Manor School, Five Oaks, Billingshurst, Sussex.

Christmas party money from Richard and Elizabeth



Kiss is fair return

A KISS from Mr. F. Batey, Chairman of the Kings Lynn, Norfolk, Group, in return for a £40 cheque from Cathy Carson who appears with the John Wall Sound.

Cathy and the Sound were appearing at the Kit Kat Club, Hunstanton, and they raised the money by asking for a donation for spastics in return for one of their signed photographs.

This was not their first effort for charity—they are

Free tickets for David

AS the result of an article in a national magazine about riding for the disabled, a young spastic boy from Taunton, Somerset, had free seats at the Horse of the Year Show.

The tickets were given by Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Woodward from Canada, who had booked seats for Wembley but afterwards found they were unable to attend. They had seen an article in Horse and Hound about the work of the Taunton Vale Pony Club in teaching disabled children to ride, and decided to offer their tickets to the club.

David Calver, this year's runner-up for the club's "endeavour" cup was chosen to go to Wembley, accompanied by Miss Susan Hyde, who assists regularly at the disabled riding sessions.

particularly interested in the handicapped and give many performances to raise funds in their home area of Lincolnshire and the East Midlands during the winter months.

(Picture by courtesy of Kings Lynn News)

FILM stars Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor have sent a 50-dollar cheque to help swell the funds of the Centre run by the Dudley and District Spastics Group, Worcestershire. This was the result of a personal plea by the Centre's Principal, Mrs. Dorothy Griffin.

The Centre was short of funds, and although the Burtons have no connection with the Dudley area, Mrs. Griffin decided on the spur of the moment to write to them while they were staying at the Dorchester Hotel in London.

She said: "As a member of an old musical family myself, with connections in the theatre world, I felt that artistes would be sensitive to the needs of others."

A few weeks later, she received a letter from the Burtons' lawyers in New York, enclosing a cheque for 50 dollars (about £20) "to be applied to the cost of a Christmas party for your students and patients."

"What a lovely gesture on the part of the Burtons," was Mrs. Griffin's comment, "They must be really kind at heart to listen to my plea. Our spastics were absolutely thrilled when they saw the cheque."

There are twelve spastics who attend the Centre daily,

ranging in age from 18 months to 35 years. Treatment is provided, as well as occupational therapy such as basketry, needlework, jewellery, rug-making, mosaic and other types of art work. Dudley council maintains the outer structure of the building, but the interior decoration is the responsibility of the Dudley and District Spastics Group.

Plymouth Chairman has retired

MR. K. C. WYATT has retired as chairman of the Plymouth Spastics (CP) Association after nearly 20 years of voluntary work for spastics. Mr. Wyatt was one of the founder-members of the Group when it was formed in 1951 and since then has been either hon. Secretary or Chairman. He will be succeeded as Chairman by Mr. A. B. H. Cross.

Our children need a flying start in education

Continued from Page 8

investment and could substantially reduce the burden of special schools.

But how is the expansion of pre-school education to be achieved? With the demands being made on the Exchequer for primary, secondary and advanced education it is unlikely that much public money will be available for the nursery group, and it follows that this is a field in which voluntary organisations can play a vital part.

The Stevenage Opportunity Class demonstrates how a valuable facility can be achieved with co-operative effort by mothers, and a minimum of expenditure, but the help and encouragement of a Local Authority. I very much hope that when the Society's Local Groups are discussing the expansion of their activities, they will seriously consider the need for pre-school and nursery classes. I also hope that they will not come to the conclusion that such classes require an expensive building. It has been proved that they can be organised in existing buildings at very little capital cost.

To sum up on this

crucial subject, let us remember that given early diagnosis and treatment sufficient pre-school education, and adequate therapeutic programmes during the early years, we can say with confidence that our children need not be so handicapped.

It's a very good reason for switching our minds a little from bricks and mortar to thinking in depth about the reality of the children's needs. Perhaps in co-operation with other voluntary bodies we can seek ways and means of creating the units—and this does not mean building new Centres—which will provide the stimulating and enriching opportunities so necessary to give our youngest children a flying start in life.

playtime

Castle Priory College, Wallingford.

Visitors from abroad travelled to Britain especially to attend the course, and they were able to discuss and exchange ideas with experts in a field which, while it is still in the pioneer stage, is already enriching the lives of handicapped children by providing opportunities once denied them.



Mr. Michael Drew, an Oxford architect, told the visitors about the playground designed for blind children at Borocourt Hospital, and he is pictured — on the extreme left — showing photographs and diagrams of the playground. With him are: Dr. Maureen Hodgson, Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Security; Mr. R. S. Johnson, tutor-organiser at Castle Priory College; and Dr. K. Menting and Mr. R. de Groot, from the State University, Groningen, Holland.

Serious work on planning for

ARCHITECTS, teachers, doctors, designers and psychologists—all of them interested in the recreational needs of disabled children—took part in a course on the planning of play facilities for spastics, the blind, and the mentally and physically handicapped, which was held at The Spastics Society's



Architect Mr. Kenneth Bayes, and Miss Sandra Franklin, of the Design Research Unit, spoke at the course on play provision for mentally handicapped children.



Discussion during a coffee break between, left to right, Miss Gunn Hordsal, of the Central Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Oslo, Norway; Miss Ragnild Dokset, also of the Oslo Institute; Mr. J. Bishop, a Richmond architect; and Mr. T. D. Swales, an educational psychologist from Durham.



Mrs. J. W. Knowles, Principal of Castle Priory College (on left) is photographed with Mr. Johnson, Mrs. M. Maxwell-Arnott, architectural assistant, County Hall; Mrs. Elena Jalla, of the Associazione Italiana Assistenza Spastici, Turin, Italy; Miss H. R. Copping, assessment class teacher at Bennett House, School, Abingdon, and Miss M. Ingham, head teacher of the Ida Darwin Hospital School.

Drop in at the local — and help charity

IN the convivial atmosphere of clubs, pubs and hotel bars people are probably more inclined to give generously to charity and a fair proportion of the Society's income is derived from this source.

The well-known Beacons—piles of pennies skilfully built up around a model lighthouse—stand on public house counters all over the country and these represent thousands of pounds each year to spastics funds.

However, as a change from Beacons, patrons of the Commercial Hotel, New Pitsligo in Scotland, have been

KALEIDOSCOPE

by

Anne Plummer

sticking pennies onto a mirror in the public bar. The owner's wife, Mrs. William Rennie, is photographed above with the mirror. It all started when the Rennies' young son stuck a couple of coppers onto the glass with beer. Customers followed suit and the idea snowballed. Once the mirror was filled up, the money was taken down and sent to the Aberdeen Spastics Association.

Coins shower

The theme song of all these indefatigable Beacon-builders and coin-stickers might well be 'Pennies from Heaven,' and in fact this was played nightly in aid of charity during the season at a cabaret in North Wales. Patrons of Caesar's Palace, Grand Hotel, Llandudno, showered resident comedian George Roberts with coins as he sang the number, and these were gathered up to be saved for local good causes. At the end of the summer, £150 had been collected for the Spastics Appeal Fund and other charities.

Holiday rock

Another novel holiday idea which originated on the Celtic fringe of Britain, was the collection of seaside rock for local spastics. Members of a Motherwell social club in Scotland each brought back a stick of rock from holiday, and at the end of the season about 100 pieces of all shapes, sizes and colours were handed over to Lanarkshire Spastics Association. In return, members were given a special performance at their cabaret evening of the puppet theatre run by spastics

from the Alexander Anderson home, Wishaw.

Moving on from summer holidays to autumn pursuits, I have discovered the story of a Harvest Festival with a difference. It was held in a public house, the Black Lion, at Buxton, Norfolk, and was organised by the pub's bowls team. After a service conducted by the vicar of Buxton, the harvest produce was auctioned and £27 was raised for the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association.

A more traditional public house activity is playing bowls and in South Wales this is carried on with good results for spastics. In fact, the Swansea Darts League "adopted" the local spastics association, 18 years ago and has been busy raising money for its protegee ever since. This year's contribution of £150 was recently handed over at the George and Dragon, Landore, by Mr. W. Casse 11, Chairman of the Darts League to Mr. T. Stalldard, Chairman of the Swansea and District Spastic Association.

Indoor sports

Another indoor sporting event was held to mark the opening of a new extension at the Goff's Oak Comrades' Club in Hertfordshire. Professional billiards players Joyce Gardner and Gary Owen visited the club for a game with local members, one of whom, Mr. Ray Dixon, beat Mr. Owen by six points.

Miss Gardner conducted an



Miss Lilian Singleton and Mr. David Sleigh who were married recently at St. Luke's Church, Blackburn, Lancashire. The bride, a chairbound spastic, worked as a packer at the Blind Workshop in Blackburn. The groom comes from Manchester and was formerly a gardener with the Corporation Parks Department.

The couple met at a holiday camp, where Mr. Sleigh was a helper for the Cripples Help Society of Manchester.

Photo by courtesy of Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

auction of garden produce which raised £52 14s. A raffle and silver collection brought the total up to £91, which was sent direct to The Spastics Society's Appeals Department at 12, Park Crescent.

None of these events would have been possible without the co-operation of publicans, managers and club-owners. Indeed, they often work extremely hard themselves at fund-raising, as, for example at a recent supper dance held by the Bishops Stortford branch of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, which raised £260 for spastics and other charities.

Incidentally, one of the competition prizes at this event was a gallon of whisky. Talk about carrying coals to Newcastle!

This is the second appearance of our new cookery feature which brings you recipes which have been tried and tested in individual kitchens. Today — two very special cakes.

Chocolate Biscuit Cake by Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of The Spastics Society's Social Work and Employment Department.

ON page 9 of this issue of Spastics News you will see a report of a tea party given by severely handicapped children from the Society's Meldreth Training School, at the Family Services and Assessment Centre in London. The children prepared the tea themselves, and their piece de resistance was the Chocolate Biscuit Cake, which all the guests voted as "truly delicious". But, equally important, the cake is so easy to make that it is the ideal recipe for the handicapped. As the Meldreth pupils proved—it's child's play.

Ingredients:

4 ozs. luxury margarine; 1 oz. castor sugar; 1 tablespoon golden syrup; 3 level tablespoons cocoa; 8 ozs. crushed sweet biscuits. Melt the margarine, sugar and syrup in a pan, but do not boil. Put the cocoa and crushed biscuits into a mixing bowl and add the melted ingredients. Mix all together.

Turn the mixture into a greased tin, keeping it about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. Press down well. Smooth the top with a palette knife. Leave to set, preferably in a refrigerator.

Coat with either melted chocolate or icing. Cut in squares.



Rich Fruit Cake from Miss Pat Taylor, Head of the Information Department of The Spastics Society.

THERE is, as every woman worth her cooking salt knows, absolutely no substitute for a good, home-made Christmas cake. But which recipe to choose?

Well, I've used this recipe dozens of times for Christmas cakes... Wedding cakes... Birthday cakes... and never had a failure. Once I even forgot the cake was in the oven and left it in an hour too long—but no problems, apart from a slightly burnt top which sliced off easily before icing. Another year, when my arm was in plaster, a nine-year-old niece made the cake for me and popped it in the oven with perfect results. So here's a cake that could indeed be called child's play.

The ingredients are:

12 oz. flour; pinch of salt; $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. bicarbonate of soda; $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. mixed spice; $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ground cinnamon; $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. powdered cloves; $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. grated nutmeg; 1 lb. sultanas; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. raisins; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. currants; 4 oz. chopped walnuts; 4 oz. shredded candied peel; 2 oz. chopped candied cherries; grated rind of 1 orange; 8 oz. butter or margarine; 8 oz. caster sugar; 5 eggs; 1 tsp. coffee essence; few drops vanilla essence; a little cold milk to mix.

Grease and line bottom and sides of a 9-inch cake tin with greaseproof paper. Sieve the flour, salt, bicarbonate of soda and all spices into a large bowl. Next add the dried fruit, candied peel and cherries, nuts and orange rind. In another large bowl cream fat and sugar together until light and fluffy, then beat in the eggs one at a time. Add coffee and vanilla essences to the fat mixture. Finally lightly stir in all the dry ingredients, and mix with a little cold milk, if necessary to give a stiff dropping consistency.

Put the mixture into the

"Meanest crime" men in Court

TWO men were charged recently with obtaining money from people in Wallingford, Berkshire, under false pretences. Claiming to be representatives of The Spastics Society, they put packets of combs through letter boxes together with envelopes, they had specially printed.

The wording said that if people wished to help spastics by buying the combs, they should put money in the envelopes which would be collected later.

Three people said they did not want the combs but gave donations totalling eight shillings.

When approached by police, the ringleader admitted that he had been working for himself. Both men pleaded guilty to the charges brought against them. One was sentenced to prison, and the other remanded for probation reports.

The Chairman of the Magistrates said this was "one of the meanest crimes."



Mrs. William Rennie with her "penny mosaic" at the Commercial Hotel Pitsligo.

Photo by courtesy of People's Journal, Dundee.

prepared cake tin and bake on bottom shelf of a moderate oven (350 deg. or Gas Mark 4) for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Then reduce the temperature a little to 325 deg. or Gas Mark 3 and bake for a further 2-3 hours until cooked. (Test in the usual way with a fine knitting needle if you don't have a hatpin — and who does these days? When the needle comes out clean, the cake is well and truly done). Just keep an eye on the top of the cake after the first hour or so and, when this is brown enough, cover with a double piece of greaseproof paper to prevent burning.

When cooked, turn out to cool on a wire tray.

Optional extra — while the cake is still warm (but not hot) make about 2 dozen tiny holes all over the top with a very fine knitting needle, pushing the needle through to the centre of the cake. Then pour the contents of a miniature bottle of brandy into the holes for a super gourmet flavour.

Cover with almond paste, and ice. Incidentally, if you use pure lemon juice to mix the white icing, this gives it a delightfully fresh flavour that helps to counteract the excessive sweetness of the marzipan paste.

Wally's pigeons are again financial high flyers

"Mr. X" is now top athlete



MR. Trevor Price of Prescot, Lancashire, once described as "Harold Wilson's Mr. X" has now become the country's top disabled athlete. He scored a "hat trick" at the 1970 Stoke Mandeville Multi-Disabled Games by winning the discus, the distance javelin and precision javelin events. For this he won the leading award of the Games, the field sports trophy.

Life began at 40 for Mr. Price a few years ago when he started his first job as one of the country's pioneer disabled computer programmers. This followed a lengthy correspondence between Mr. Price and his constituency MP, Mr. Harold Wilson.

When asked what had been his "biggest thrill of achievement" during his term of office as Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson told a leading national newspaper correspondent about "Mr. X." He referred to "the personal battle I've been fighting for many years as a constituency MP to get my constituent 'Mr. X', a spastic who could not get a job, embarked on a new career in computer programming..."

"Mr. X" later identified himself as Trevor Price.

Photo by courtesy of South Lancashire Newspapers Ltd.

NEARLY 2,000 top-flight pigeon fanciers from all over Britain converged on the St. Pancras Assembly Rooms, London, for the Sixth International Sale of Pigeons, held to raise funds for The Spastics Society.

Although the sale was not due to start until 11 a.m., the fanciers started flocking in shortly after 8 a.m., many having travelled through the night to get there in good time. They had come to see, and to bid for, nearly 200 famous birds which had been donated to raise money for the Society.

The sale included over 60 ace birds sent by leading American fanciers in exchange for a batch of 50 sent by the Society to the United States to aid the V. D. Snyder Memorial Nurses Scholarship Fund. Among them was a Royal bird from the Queen's loft at Sandringham.

The auction, which was organised and conducted by Mr. Wally Pope, of Barking, London, was officially opened by Mr. John Kellett, the Society's Assistant Director, Appeals, who congratulated Wally Pope on having raised a total of £16,000 for spastics over the past five years.

QUIET SPOT!

By lunchtime the Hall was filled to over-flowing, so much so, that when a young lady reporter from the B.B.C. arrived to interview Wally Pope, the only quiet venue that could be found for recording was in the gentlemen's loo!

One item on show at the Assembly Rooms that created a considerable amount of interest was a model pigeon loft made entirely of matchsticks. This was donated by Mr. Birkell of East London, who spent three weeks making it.

The task of auctioning the birds went on until 9 p.m. and even at that late hour Wally Pope's voice and enthusiasm

showed no sign of flagging.

Equally tireless was his assistant, Jimmy Edridge, who had the job of passing up the pigeons to the platform to be auctioned. For them, this was the culmination of weeks of work, listing pigeons and their pedigrees, supervising transport, putting them up on arrival and caging and feeding them at the Auction Rooms.

BIG TOTAL

A team of helpers from The Spastics Society recorded all the bids and looked after the finances, and at the end of the evening they were delighted to announce that the total money raised during the day amounted to the magnificent sum of £3,652 10s. 0d. A competition held during the day, with a 1st prize of £100 in Premium Bonds and a 2nd prize of a barrel of beer, contributed £850 towards the total.

While the rest of us quietly folded our wings and went off into the night, Wally and Jimmy began the job of clearing away the empty cages—and to start thinking about next year's sale.

Happiness at a shilling an inch

THE cost of happiness is 1s per square inch." This is the slogan coined by the Midland Spastic Association in its fund-raising drive for an extension to the Welfare Centre at Harborne, Birmingham. The Association is asking members of the public to buy a stake in the new building at the price of 1s per square inch.

Duchess

THE Duchess of Kent will attend the first Carol Concert to be held by the Stars Organisation for Spastics at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on December 5th.

On arrival the Duchess will be welcomed by the Hon. Mrs. James Ogilvy, the new President of the S.O.S., and afterwards, thanks will be expressed by the Chairman Mr. Dickie Henderson.

Triumphant Teddies



Juliet Pallot and Tracey Williams, two little pupils at The Spastics Society's Hawksworth Hall School, Guiseley, Yorkshire, are proudly photographed with two of the prizewinners at a gathering of teddy bears at Ilkley. The teddies won the prizes for the fattest and the tallest bears at the great teddy bear contest.

The children at Hawksworth Hall are obviously well supplied with teddies, for they produced furry entrants for all sections of the competition, which called for the happiest, saddest, scruffiest, thinnest and smallest teddies, together with the best homemade teddy and the teddy with the most unusual name.

10 million — that is the target for Christmas

IT looks like being an all-time record Christmas for Spastics Cards. As Spastics News went to Press, over nine-and-a-half million items of Christmas merchandise had been distributed, and hopes are high that the ambitious 10 million target will be reached—and passed.

Over 2,000 orders are being received each day at the headquarters of Spastics Cards Ltd., and buoyant sales are also reported from Groups and shops all over the country.

"If people keep buying as they are, then we

should top our target, and, of course, the handicapped will benefit" says Mr. John Kellett, managing director of Spastics Cards Ltd., and the Society's Assistant Director, Appeals.

Among the best sellers is, "Madonna and Child" a beautiful design with a religious theme, which is printed by spastics at the Society's Meadoway Sheltered Workshop, Birmingham. Top seller in the Contemporary range is the charming "Little Shepherd", and favourite in the prestige, Old Masters series is "The Tower of London and the Royal Mint."

GOOD VALUE

The public has been quick to realise the good value offered by Spastics Cards and hundreds of thousands of cards from the Top 30 packet—30 cards and envelopes for 10s. 11d.—will drop through letterboxes this Christmas.

The wisdom of diversification into a wider market than cards alone has been shown in high sales of presents from the mail order catalogue, and jigsaws and "Scrabble" are top favourites here.

Mr. Kellett is quietly confident that with the public's continued help this year's target will be reached, but already he is working towards even greater success for Christmas 1971. The first designs for next year's cards have already been sent to Meadoway Workshop, and producing them will provide employment for spastics throughout the year.

First prize in a competition being organised by Blackburn Greys Round Table is a colour television. Proceeds from the contest will help buy an ambulance for Blackburn and District Spastics Society.

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Vera Lynn has countless fans all over the world, and one of the keenest is Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, who not only enjoys Vera's records but is tremendously grateful for the star's work on behalf of spastics. Vera, who last week was elected Vice-Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, is pictured autographing a copy of her record "Hits of the Sixties—My Way" for the Director. The star is no stranger to office in the S.O.S. She is a Vice-President, and an ex-Chairman of the lively Organisation, in which show business personalities band together to raise funds for spastics.



For spastic Susan Gibson of Wigan, Lancashire, her 21st birthday was a very special occasion. Not only did she receive 164 cards and presents but Disc Jockey Jimmy Young played a request for her on his Radio One programme. Picture shows Susan at home with just a few of her cards and flowers.

Photo by courtesy of Evening Post & Chronicle, Wigan.

Duchess will attend S.O.S. Carol Concert

Soloists at the concert include Vera Lynn, Moira Anderson and Ivor Emmanuel. They will be supported by Woking Epworth Choir, and a piano solo with the choir, will be given by Leslie Crowther.

There will also be readings by Sir John Gielgud, David Jacobs and David Kossoff; production is by

Ralph Reader, and Ron Goodwin and Norrie Paramor are arranging the music.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. and if you would like to sing carols with the stars there are still some 50s. tickets left. They are obtainable from the Box Office, Royal Festival Hall, London, S.E.1.